

Description

Breastfeeding in the 21st Century; A celebratory study of how breastfeeding and breast milk delivery looks in our society today

Hannah Moreton, Artist and NHS Breastfeeding Peer Supporter

Summary

Hannah Moreton is a mixed media artist and tutor based in Leicestershire. She works with paper and stitch, including personal and sentimental artefacts from commissioners, hand cutting paper pieces and stitching together portraits and commemorative pieces using a vintage Singer sewing machine.

Background

Having been a breastfeeding peer supporter Hannah has worked in the community and built up knowledge and awareness of how breastfeeding looks and works in society.

Hannah asked participants to share images, and a short narrative if they wanted, exploring the question “What does breastfeeding ‘look’ like for you?” This returned a wide range images, words and descriptors from across the country. (Participants have given their consent to their image and narrative to be shared publically.)

Representation

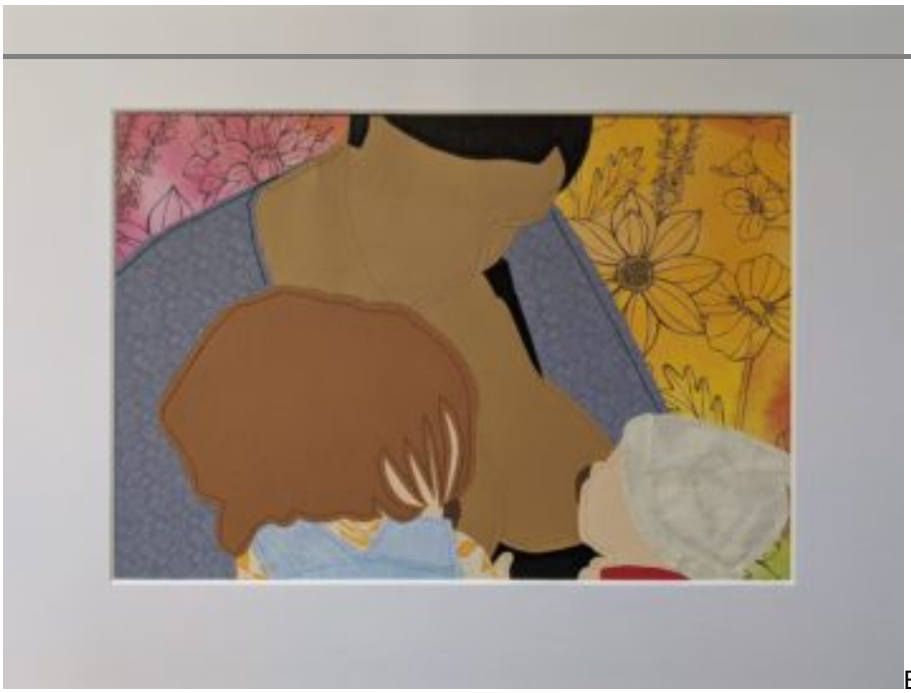
The artworks created in response focus on the results, removing the surrounding imagery, in order to celebrate breastfeeding or feeding breast milk to our babies and children. Whilst the collection is not exhaustive of those in society today, representation includes older children; bottle-fed breast milk, and those who feel their personal gender or non-gendered identity has played a part in their journey.



Chase is non-binary and their breastfeeding journey didn't start the way they had planned. Half an hour after birth Athena stopped breathing properly and they spent 15 hours apart. After a tricky first few feeds, including some cup fed formula, on Athena's 3rd feed she "She latched straight on and fed for 8 minutes"

Chase was also concerned with dysphoria effecting their pregnancy and breastfeeding experience as they find focusing on their "genitals or breasts….difficult…" Despite pregnancy and birth being overwhelming with gendered language Chase found that breastfeeding seemed more private and personal than pregnancy, but there are still moments of dysphoria that they have found ways to cope with.

Emma is mum to a boy aged 3 and girl aged 14m whom she tandem feeds. In the piece they are two and 3 weeks respectively.



Emma nearly ended her breastfeeding journey with her eldest early on as she found that there wasn't a lot of support and that she didn't know "any other breastfeeding parents or mixed race parents…"

It transpired that her son had multiple allergies that once cut from Emma's diet meant that feeding progressed more ...eding her daughter too but Emma says ...ays it's harder than others, but I wouldn't



Ruth has 4 children, two older boys and girl boy twins. Ruth has mammary hypoplasia meaning she is unable to make a full milk supply to enable her to exclusively breastfeed. All four of her children have been fed using an at-breast supplementer, also known as a supplemental nursing system or SNS., which can be seen in this piece.

Whilst getting to grips using the SNS, with her eldest son, he was topped up by bottle on occasion however following the success with using the SNS Ruth then was able to feed the youngest three children, including formula top ups at the breast.

The Future



country in 2021, including at The Post
Post Box Gallery in Hinckley.

s raised will be split between the

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